

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 52 of 1876.]

## REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 23rd December 1876.

WE extract the following from the *Bishwa Suhrid*, of the 6th December:—Almost everything connected with India is for the advantage of the British. They are destined to profit by her advancement and prosperity; while the natives seem doomed to suffer from the vicissitudes and calamities to which she is subject. Famines, cyclones, plagues, and lamentations, are all for the down-trodden natives; but cannot touch the proud and towering conquerors. How few Englishmen suffer from the famine which is now raging in Bombay! They only will be the gainers from the Imperial Assemblage. The *Durbar* will enrich the British manufacturer with the money of the Native Princes, and will benefit the British merchant in various ways. The large drain on the public exchequer, that will be necessary for relief purposes and for the *Durbar*, will injuriously affect only the people of this country. The expenditure on the Education Department, so necessary for our advancement, has been curtailed. Why do not the highly-paid civilians, we ask, liberally give up, on this occasion, a portion of their salaries, and thus practically manifest their sympathy towards their poor Aryan brethren,—a sympathy often declared in books and lectures? It is greatly to be regretted that, owing to a want of sufficient funds to relieve the prevailing distress, cases of starvation are reported from the Bombay Presidency. Officers have been appointed on high salaries to direct the relief operations; so that the calamities of India become also a means of enriching the British. The actions of Government are always, as now, attended with parade and formality; though on this occasion there is involved in them the loss of numberless human lives.

BISHWA SUHRID,  
December 6th, 1876.

2. In an article headed the "Cyclone in Noakholly and Sir Richard Temple," the same paper reproduces the remarks of the *Bhārat Mihir* on the subject noticed in paragraph 10 of our last Report.

BISHWA SUHRID.

3. The *Hindu Ranjikā*, of the 13th December, makes the following remarks on the administration of Sir Richard Temple:—Coming after Sir George Campbell, who had created a revolution in all departments of the Government, Sir Richard Temple inspired the people of Bengal with hope and confidence. He gave assurances of good government by his professions, though not by his acts. Eager to obtain popularity with both natives and civilians, he has failed and has become unpopular with both. Notwithstanding all this, he is noted for his courtesy and simplicity. Sir Richard Temple is likely to be succeeded in the Governorship of this Province by the Hon'ble Ashley Eden, the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, who is exceedingly popular with the natives of Bengal.

HINDU RANJIKĀ,  
December 13th, 1876.

4. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 14th December, echoes the sentiments expressed by the *Hindu Ranjikā* on the Lieutenant-Governor's *Durbar* at Nattore, and which were noticed in paragraph 5 of our last Report.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
December 14th, 1876.



BHARAT MIHIB,  
December 14th, 1876.

5. The same paper repudiates the charge brought against the natives of Eastern Bengal, by the *Pioneer* and other papers in his wake, of keeping female slaves in their households; and observes that it is utterly unfounded.

BHARAT MIHIB.

6. The same paper observes, in reference to the Bill lately introduced into the Bengal Council respecting public ferries, that though no one can reasonably question the propriety of placing them under the Road Cess Committees, it is not easy to see the reason of Government continuing to levy tolls thereon. It is surely strange that, for the single privilege of using roads, the people should be required to pay taxes in different shapes. For what are canals and rivers, but breaks in the continuity of roads? There are, moreover, no tolls demanded for the use of the bridges, constructed over rivers from the proceeds of the road cess; and, therefore, to do so in the case of public ferries is tantamount to demanding the road cess over again; and this cannot be characterized by any other name than oppression. The subject may be trifling to those who can spend thousands on fire-works for the purposes of a Durbar; but these small payments are of great consequence to a people who, with difficulty, afford to keep body and soul together.

BHARAT MIHIB.

7. The High Court, says the same paper, where there is no distinction of creed or color, has vindicated British justice in the Fennuah cases by awarding adequate punishments on Webster and Macdonald; and the action of Sir Richard Temple in this matter has given satisfaction to the public. We have, however, one thing to complain of. Sir Richard has struck terror into the hearts of oppressive planters, but why did he not do the same towards the civilians? What prevents the punishment of Kirkwood, Clay, D'Oyly, Veasey and others? Mr. D'Oyly severely beat Raj Chandra Dass with his own hands, and, not content with that, had him tried by Mr. Clay and thrown into prison. In a free country, such worthless Magistrates would not be allowed to disgrace the seat of justice even for a day. The press and public opinion are not sufficiently powerful in this country; and our only hope of justice rests with the Governors and the Governor-General. It was Sir Richard Temple's duty, as it was in his power, to curb the high-handed actions of these men. This he has not done; and thus though possessed of many virtues, his partiality towards the civilian class alone precludes his carrying with him the sincere benedictions of the people of Bengal.

BHARAT MIHIB.

8. The natives, says the same paper, are not made Justices of the Peace, because they would, if that were done, be entitled to try European British subjects; and this is expressly barred by section 72 of Act X of 1872. Such provisions in the law clearly point to the distinction made by Government between persons of the ruling race and natives. And considering that the judicial abilities of the latter are openly acknowledged by the fact of their trying intricate questions of civil law and civil suits, the matter cannot be otherwise explained. But until such petty differences cease to exist, invidious distinctions between the conquerors and the conquered will doubtless continue.

BHARAT MIHIB.

9. The same paper observes that Sir Richard Temple's educational policy is extremely vacillating. Though pledged to carry out the scheme of his predecessor respecting primary education, he has therein made many changes; while the cause of high education also has suffered considerably under his administration—as witness the results of the University examinations, and the more stringent rules which now obtain in the Medical and Engineering colleges regarding the admission of pupils. We also regret to notice that His Honor labors under a serious error in believing that the



natives of Bengal have made progress in education sufficient to incline them to pay for it; and that Government can therefore safely reduce expenditure in this department. It is only owing to the example and persuasion of our rulers that increasing interest is now manifested by the higher classes in education, which will seriously suffer from any indifference on their part.

10. Adverting to the assumption of the Imperial title by the Queen, the same paper says that it will prove but an empty title if the interests of this country are not henceforth consulted before those of England, and a more liberal policy followed in the administration of its affairs.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
December 14th, 1876.

11. A correspondent of the same paper states that the inhabitants of Patuli, Jhaudinga, Sarisha, and adjacent villages under sub-division Culna, in the Burdwan district, are put to serious inconvenience when preferring complaints and suits in the sub-divisional courts, which are more than thirty miles distant. Government is besought to transfer those villages from the jurisdiction of Culna to the sub-division of Cutwa which is much nearer.

BHARAT MIHIR.

12. The *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 14th December, makes the following observations in reviewing the last report on the Jails :—The English is indeed a wonderful language, and Englishmen too can write nice reports. A person who would draw his inferences, respecting the condition of the people under the British rule, from a perusal of these reports, would doubtless regard them as exceedingly happy. The present Jail Report removes the doubts of even the most suspicious. Would to God the sentiments expressed therein were really carried out in practice! The people might then be indeed happy. It is, however, not so in practice, though there is some indication of sincerity in Sir Richard Temple's present report. Unfortunately he will shortly leave us. A longer stay would have convinced him, as it did, though too late, in the case of Dr. Mouat and Sir George Campbell, that a rigorous system of jail discipline is not suited to this country. As it is, he has already given proof of this growing conviction. The mortality in the jails greatly depends on the system of discipline, and a rigorous treatment induces more numerous deaths. We are glad to read that Sir Richard has given orders that the prisoners should be more leniently treated than formerly. There cannot be a greater error than the notion that the adoption of such a course would stand in the way of their correction. It may be observed that, in the case of native prisoners, so fond of home and society, mere confinement is sufficient punishment. It appears from the report that a large number of punishments awarded in the jails was due to the prisoners having smoked and used the pân-leaf. Government will do well to allow them these articles; as these are not at all luxuries, but necessities, with the common people. The kind of work to be allotted to prisoners ought to depend on the state of their health as well as their position in society, for hard work for a man, who is delicately-nurtured, is worse to him than death.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
December 14th, 1876.

Circulation about 2217.

13. The *Education Gazette*, of the 15th December, expects much good from the passing of the Dramatic Performances' bill. The native stage should be reformed. It is only to be regretted that the *Játrás*, most of which are disfigured with obscenities, do not fall within the purview of the Bill as settled at present.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
December 15th, 1876.

14. The *Moorshedabad Patriká*, of the 15th December, deprecates the practice of holding frequent durbars, which has now been adopted by Government. Among other injurious consequences it is gradually impoverishing the native princes and enriching British capitalists.

MOORSHEDABAD  
PATRIKA,  
December 15th, 1876.



GRAMBARTA  
PRAKASHIKA,  
December 16th, 1876.

Circulation about 200.

15. The *Grámbártá Prókáshiká*, of the 16th December, remarks, in an article headed, the "Durbars," that as at present held they only lead to extravagance and waste. If, however, the authorities would on such occasions direct their attention towards securing the advancement of agriculture, arts, and manufactures, considerable benefit might accrue to the natives, and the expenditure also become to some extent justifiable. At present one or two superior officers, indeed, occasionally advert to the topic; but they are not able to indicate with precision the means whereby the advancement of the country in this direction could be secured.

GRAMBARTA  
PRAKASHIKA.

16. The same paper observes:—It is the duty of the public to correct the errors of Government officers, as on them depends the welfare of the people. An attempt, therefore, on the part of Government to conceal the shortcomings of its servants gives increasing scope for their existence, and induces a distrust towards the rulers in the minds of the public. This, however, has become the policy of Government at the present time; and its attitude towards the press, which represents public opinion, is as reprehensible as it has been injurious.

HINDU HITOISHINI,  
December 16th, 1876.

17. The *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 16th December, remarks:—The Bengal famine raised Sir Richard Temple to the Lieutenant-Governorship of this Province, and the famine in Bombay now promises to raise him to the Governorship of that presidency. While hundreds of thousands of human beings have lost their lives, and as many their property in Eastern Bengal, the Lieutenant-Governor has been promoted to a higher office. Thus is verified the proverb that one gains by others' miseries. He will not be missed in Bengal; as by his partiality towards the class of civilians of which he made himself the champion, he was responsible for their many illegal and oppressive acts. His probable successor is also a civilian, but he is very popular with natives.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

18. The same paper strongly urges on Government the desirability, of giving up the practice of flogging criminals. This is really cruel, and is unworthy of a civilized Government like the British.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

19. Now, when Government is said to be devising acts of generosity, on the occasion of the Queen's assumption of the Imperial title, the same paper directs its attention to the propriety of restoring the Garo Hills to the Rajah of Susanga Durgapore, to whom they really belong. The act, if done, will be exceedingly graceful at this auspicious moment.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
December 17th, 1876.

20. The *Dacca Prákásh*, of the 17th December, makes the following remarks on the administration of the present Lieutenant-Governor:—The native press has indeed given a generally unfavourable estimate of his rule in Bengal, for the simple reason that he was hostile to its interests and partial to the civilians. We, however, do not share in this view. Though not pure as crystal, Sir Richard's administration has been, in our opinion, better than that of many of his predecessors. Yet it must be admitted that in his case it was not difficult to earn popularity. Coming after Sir George Campbell, who was intensely disliked by the people, he easily attained this object. We, however, freely confess that Sir Richard Temple has accomplished many praiseworthy acts. Among these may be mentioned his action in connection with the Education Department. No other governor before him had made such persistent and earnest efforts to mix with the natives and see with his own eyes the state of the country. Even for this alone we ought to be grateful to him. We do not know whether he will be allowed to carry out to its end his great and laudable project in connection



with the rent difficulty. We believe, that if he continue in the governorship for some time longer, success will attend his efforts in this direction. We, are however, glad to notice that his probable successor is regarded as a friend of Bengal.

21. The same paper suggests that Government should follow a new policy after the assumption of the Imperial title by the Queen. An impetus should be given to education, and offices under Government thrown open to the people without any distinction of creed or colour. Means should be used to remove the poverty of the country and mitigate the rigors of the administration.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
December 17th, 1876.

22. In an article on the "Durbar at Delhi," the *Sádháraní*, of the 17th December, dwells on the many historical associations connected with the city, which witnessed the rise and fall of different powers and dynasties. The thought of a Durbar at Delhi brings to the native mind the memory of the nation's past glories and greatness; and at times the effort becomes really painful. Lord Lytton will be, indeed, regarded as a statesman of rare talents if, before he parts with the assembled nationalities, he succeeds in inspiring them with hope and removing from their minds the painful memory of their glorious past. Otherwise mere glitter and idle pageantry will not avail to make them forget what they were, and the Durbar will be productive of only needless expenditure.

SADHARANI,  
December 17th, 1876.  
Circulation about 516.

23. The same paper regrets to notice that Sir Richard Temple has not remitted the sentence of transportation for life passed on one Ishwar Chandra Das of Rajshahye, a lad of 18 years of age, on the charge of murdering his wife. The sentence is unjust, as clearly appears from the records of the case. Sir Richard showed his favor to Nabin, for in that way he could earn popularity; but in the case of this poor and innocent boy he has not interfered. We can only say that he has not properly exercised his authority.

SADHARANI.

24. Adverting to the fact that Government has subscribed to some native papers on this occasion of the Imperial Assemblage, probably to make itself acquainted with their views on the subject, the same paper points out the desirability of appointing a competent person to translate their contents.

SADHARANI.

25. The *Soma Prakash*, of the 18th December, has the following in its opening paragraph:—There are, indeed, many among our rulers who really desire to see us able to discharge public duties; but what with distrust and pride, and what with the fear of offending their fellow officials, they have not up to this time carried out their purpose. With this view they conferred on us the municipal franchise and made us Honorary Magistrates. It is, moreover, intended to raise some natives to District Judgeships and Magistrateships, and entrust them with the charge of districts. We are gratified to read that on the occasion of the Imperial Assemblage the last determination will be carried out.

SOMA PRAKASH,  
December 18th, 1876.

26. The same paper writes the following, in an article on the retirement of Sir Richard Temple:—Bombay will profit, while Bengal will be a loser by this measure. He was a true friend of the Bengalees, and as such sought to secure their advancement by constantly mixing with them. No other Governor, since the days of Sir F. Halliday, was so courteous and friendly towards them. He possessed the ability of Sir George Campbell without his hastiness. By his affability he won the hearts of the people, and thus succeeded in carrying out important public measures. This was

SOMA PRAKASH.



wrongly regarded as insincere conduct. He introduced the elective system into the Calcutta Municipality and has seen its working. It is to be regretted that he leaves one important matter in a state of incompleteness. We mean his Rent Bill. Success herein would have made him more famous than even Lord Cornwallis. The public should certainly do something to honor him, and mark their gratitude for his able and beneficent services.

SOMA PRAKASH,  
December 18th, 1876.

27. The same paper dwells on the ineffectiveness of the municipalities in the mofussil, which are deservedly unpopular. The condition of the villages under a municipality is much the same as before when there was no such institution. Jungles abound, and the roads and tanks are all in a wretched condition, while the tax is regularly and punctually collected; and failure on the part of the inhabitants, who are mostly poor, to meet their demands is punished by the sale of their movable property. At some places whole villages have been, as it were by force, constituted into a municipality, and the proceeds of the taxes are almost wholly expended on the police, and the remainder on needless items. Moreover, the collections from one village are sometimes spent for the benefit of another. The last practice should at once be discontinued.

SOMA PRAKASH.

28. The same paper directs the attention of Government to the lightness of the punishment inflicted on Mr. Damant, who ordered one of his *chuprassees* to pull the ears of a native pleader of his court. He has only been fined Rs. 500. It is to be regretted that Government does not see the injury which is done to its reputation for justice by such acts. Here is a respectable and educated pleader grossly insulted in open court by the orders of a judicial officer, and the offender escapes only with a nominal fine. Government cannot too soon insist on junior civilians being taught good manners.

SOMA PRAKASH.

29. Now that the Queen is about to assume a title, which shall show the increasing interest she takes in India and her people, the same paper solicits the bestowal of three boons. These are:—(1) the appointment of natives to military officerships without restriction or reserve; (2) access to appointments in all departments of the public service, and a conferring on them the same privileges and powers now enjoyed by Europeans; and (3) the admission of Bengalis into the army.

SOMA PRAKASH.

30. The same paper approves of the object of the Bill lately introduced into the Bengal Council in reference to bazars and canals. It would be well if, by this measure, the levy of illegal tolls and cesses were stopped, and facilities afforded for the expansion of trade. While on this subject, the editor asks Government to abolish the toll bar on the Tolly's Nullah; as years have elapsed since its excavation, and the amount of the tolls levied during that period has doubtless made up for the cost of the work.

SAMBAD BHASKAR,  
December 18th, 1876.

31. While fully recognizing the need of passing the Dramatic Performances' Bill for the prevention of obscene or defamatory representations, the *Sambad Bhaskar*, of the 18th December, remarks that, according to the suggestion of the Hon'ble Rajah Narendra Krishna, Government should certainly make provision for having the merits of a play ascertained by some competent native authority before prohibiting its performance on the stage. The subject should receive the careful attention of the legislature.

SAMBAD BHASKAR.

32. The same paper asks Government to release, on the occasion of the Durbar, the Wahabee convicts Amir Khan and Ibrahim Mundle, two old men, who have but few years left them on earth.



33. The *Sulabha Samáchar*, of the 19th December, regrets to notice that the respected head of the Hindu community of Calcutta, Rajah Ramanath Tagore, has not been honoured with an invitation to the Delhi Assemblage. The citizens are all sorry for it. Orissa has also been overlooked. The editors of the two native papers in that province, the *Utkal Dīpiká* and the *Balasore Sambád Báhiká*, besides the many respectable zemindars of Orissa, should certainly have been honoured by Government.

SULABHA SAMACHAR.,  
December 19th, 1876.

Circulation about 3,000

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 23rd December 1876.

JOHN ROBINSON,

Government Bengali Translator.

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the 23rd December 1876.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Bishwa Suhrid" ...	Mymensingh ...	Weekly ...	6th December 1876.
2	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ...	Kákinia, Rungpore ...	Ditto ...	7th ditto.
3	"Burdwan Pracháriká" ...	Burdwan ...	Ditto ...	8th & 15th December 1876.
4	"Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Bauleah, Rajshahye ...	Ditto ...	13th December 1876.
5	"Bhárat Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	Ditto ...	14th ditto.
6	"Amrita Bazar Patriká" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	14th ditto.
7	"Samáj Darpan" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	15th ditto.
8	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	15th ditto.
9	"Pratikár" ...	Berhampore ...	Ditto ...	15th ditto.
10	"Moorshedabad Patriká" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	15th ditto.
11	"Moorshedabad Pratinidhi" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	15th ditto.
12	"Grámbártá Prakáshiká" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	16th ditto.
13	"Hindu Hitoishini" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	16th ditto.
14	"Dacca Prakásh" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	17th ditto.
15	"Howrah Hitakarí" ...	Bethar, Howrah ...	Ditto ...	17th ditto.
16	"Sádháraní" ...	Chinsurah ...	Ditto ...	17th ditto.
17	"Soma Prakásh" ...	Bhowanipore ...	Ditto ...	18th ditto.
18	"Sambád Bháskar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	18th ditto.
19	"Sulabha Samáchar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	19th ditto.
20	"Samáchar Chandriká" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	16th, 18th, 20th & 22nd December 1876.
21	"Sambád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	15th to 21st December 1876.
22	"Sambád Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	16th, 19th, & 20th December 1876.
23	"Jám-Jahán-numá" (in Persian) ...	Ditto ...	Weekly ...	15th & 22nd December 1876.
24	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	16th December 1876.

Bengal Secretariat Press.



